

Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

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Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 3-15-12

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours: Tuesday March 27th, 9:30-11:00am Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Redistricting
- 2) Urban Agriculture Text Amendments
- 3) Compost Ordinance Passes
- 4) Yard Waste No More Plastic Bags
- 5) Sabo Bridge
- 6) New Director of Employment Equity
- 7) Police to Re-Hire CSOs
- 8) Solar on Station 19
- 9) Teen Job Fair March 24
- 10) Food Donations Needed
- 11) Youth Violence Prevention Week
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) As you likely know, the Redistricting Group of the Charter Commission is currently drafting new Ward maps for the City of Minneapolis. The most recent map formally adopted by the Redistricting Group would move all of the Longfellow and Cooper neighborhoods into the Second Ward, while moving the east half of Seward into the Sixth Ward. There are additional opportunities for public comment on March 20th March 20, from 5-7pm at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th St, and March 21, from 5-7pm at the Urban Research & Outreach Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Av N.
- 2) The zoning code text amendments driven by the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan will be coming to the Council's Zoning and Planning committee on March 22nd. Several substantive amendments have been offered, including limiting the height of season-extension structures (or "hoop houses") to six feet and dramatically cutting back the number of days market gardens can sell to the public. I support the original staff recommendations, which are completely in keeping with the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan that the Council unanimously passed last year. I have drafted compromise amendments on hoop houses and garden sale days, and hope that the committee will pass them. You can find more analysis on the Second Ward blog.
- 3) The compost ordinance I authored has passed the Council unanimously. These changes increase the allowable size for compost areas, clarify the requirements on compost bin construction and the types of materials that can be composted, and authorize City staff to require people who violate the terms of the ordinance to take a course in composting. I want to specifically thank greater Longfellow resident Russ Henry for starting this process and being an invaluable resource on composting best practices. You can find more analysis on the Second Ward blog.
- 4) Starting this spring, Solid Waste and Recycling will no longer pick up yard waste in plastic bags. Residents may use compostable bags, Kraft paper bags, or sturdy reusable containers. Using conventional plastic bags for yard waste increases the processing cost and results in lower quality compost. Using compostable bags or a reusable container eliminates the need to debag yard waste before composting. This results in an improved collection program with lower processing costs and higher quality finished compost. If you still have plastic bags of yard waste from yard cleanup last fall, please contact Solid Waste and Recycling for assistance. Collection options for yard waste bagged during last year's yard waste season are available for a limited time only. For more information, see: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste/index.htm.

- 5) As I'm sure you've heard, the Martin Olav Sabo bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Highway 55 suffered a critical failure of two of its support cables on Sunday, February 18th. This disrupted traffic on Highway 55 and operations on the Hiawatha LRT for a little more than a week. Public Works staff have responded quickly and professionally to this unexpected problem, shoring up the bridge and getting traffic and LRT service reopened as soon as possible. Problems with other cables and their connections to the bridge have been discovered, and the City has hired a contractor to investigate what caused these critical failures. These cables are a little over five years old, and were inspected just last year and found to be in good condition. The bridge itself is closed to bicycle and pedestrian traffic indefinitely. I support this important and highly visible investment in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and I'm confident that we will be able to isolate the cause of these failures and make the repairs necessary to reopen it. I am confident that the costs of the repairs will be covered by whichever party is found by the investigation currently underway to have caused the problems with these cables. For more information, see the Public Works report here:

 http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-088139.pdf.
- 6) The Civil Rights Department has hired **Karen Francois** as Director of Employment Equity for the City of Minneapolis. She will join the One Minneapolis Equity in Employment project team in the ongoing efforts of the city to mitigate the racial disparity in employment. The One Minneapolis equity in employment program was one of the only new programs Mayor Rybak and the city council funded in 2012 with an initial investment of \$300,000.
- A key focus of the initiative will be on providing hard-to-employ workers with training and placement for good jobs in the green economy. I have been leading the Council's efforts on employment equity for years, and I'm excited to welcome Ms. Francois to the City. We certainly have quite a lot of room for improvement.
- 7) The Council has authorized the Police Department to use \$400,000 in one-time funds from their 2011 budget overage to recall the group of Community Service Officers who were previously laid off. This is good for MPD's overall diversity, as this CSO class was more diverse than the MPD as a whole.
- 8) In February new solar installation was put on Station 19 to provide electricity and hot water to the building. The station is one of six Minneapolis buildings that have new solar installations funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and using Xcel Energy rebates. The roof of Fire Station No. 19 features 58 new solar electric panels, which will provide 9.83 kilowatts of power, and three solar thermal panels, which will provide the fire station with 50 to 70 percent of its hot water needs.
- 9) A Teen Job Fair will be held Saturday, March 24 from noon 3 p.m. at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall second floor. The free event offers people ages 14-19 an opportunity to meet employers from area businesses and organizations, find out about jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities, pick up job applications, and attend workshops on finding jobs. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend as well. For more information including a list of participating organizations and businesses see: visit http://www.hclib.org/teens/TeenJobFair.cfm
- 10) March is Minnesota FoodShare Month, and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul fire departments are competing to see which city can collect the most food for area food shelves. It is estimated that 1 in 10 metro area households many of them with children are facing hunger. With the increased need, hunger relief programs are struggling to meet the demand. To help you can bring non-perishable food items to any of Minneapolis' 19 fire stations by March 31.
- 11) Minneapolis Youth Violence Prevention Week is March 19 to 23. The week is part of a national effort to call attention to the issue of youth violence. One way to participate is to nominate a young person or adult for the Minneapolis Peacekeeper Award. Minneapolis youth in kindergarten to 12th grade can also submit an entry for this year's poster contest for the Speak Up tip line. This tip line (1 866 SPEAK UP) allows youth to anonymously call or text in reports of potential violence including weapons in schools, parks, libraries or other locations. For more information visit http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/yvp/index.htm.
- 12) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.